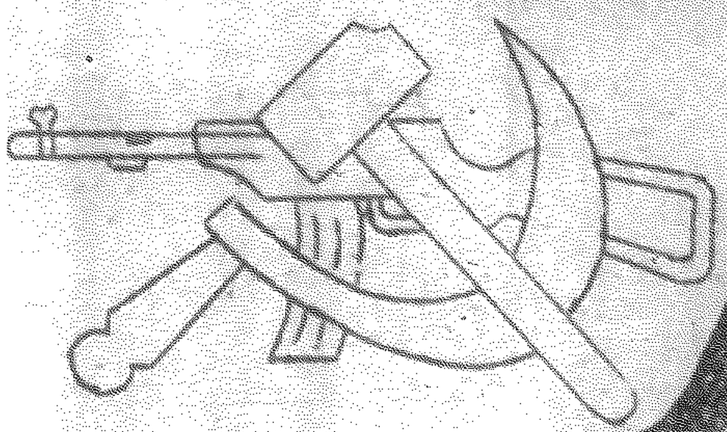
PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAISIPANG MAO TSETUNG

ANG Bayan



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TILL 'ELECTION' DAY, MARCOS WILL CHEAT ALL THE WAY

The "campaign" for "elections" to be held on April 7 by the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime is turning out to be a race between a sportscar and people trying to run with their legs tied together.

When Marcos decided to hold "elections" for his "interim Batasang Pambansa"--upon the insistence of his U.S. imperialist masters--no one was in a hurry to accept the conditions he laid down to ensure the poll results.

In the face of the dictator's refusal to make concessions, especially on the matter of block voting, the Liberal Party announced it was not joining the farcical exercise, but allowed individual party members to run. (Ang Bayan, February 15, 1978)

But by February 17, deadline for registration with Marcos' Commission on Elections, many groups had declared their willingness to take their chances against the dictator's candidates. On the other hand, the regime had also taken care to put up its own groups who would make a show of "opposition".

Among the political groups that registered were the Pusyon Bisaya, in central Visayas; the Young Philippines Party and Bicol-Saro, in the Bicol region; Concerned Citizens Party and Mindanao Alliance, in Mindanao; Partido Demokrata (Ang Bag-ong Kusog); Youth Democratic Movement; Emancipated Scientists Party; Partido Saranggola ni Pepe; Confederation of Ilocano Associations and Timpuyog ti Amianan, in northern Luzon; Ang Kusog, in Leyte-Samar; Lapiang Bagong Silang; Partido ng Bagong Filipino; and others. Many candidates also registered without belonging to any political group.

In the Manila area, 21 candidates were presented by the Lakas ng Bayan (Laban) group headed by former Sen. Lorenzo M. Tañada. They confronted Marcos on the issues of human rights and civil liberties, the suspension of the workers' right to strike, the worsening state of the economy, the lifting of martial law, government policies on social welfare, and the peace and order situation.

Nine of Laban's 21 candidates are former political prisoners, while Sen. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. continues to be detained in Fort Bonifacio until the present.

The National Security Council has denied Aquino's request for permission to leave his detention cell in order to campaign, even under heavy guard. To give temporary freedom to the senator, the NSC said, would be "dangerous to the security of the Republic".

In a letter to Marcos, Aquino denounced the council's decision and pointed out that of the four members of the NSC executive committee, three were candidates of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), the Marcos party--Juan Ponce Enrile, Carlos Romulo and Vicente Abad Santos.

Aquino then asked Marcos to give him a chance to campaign from his cell, by being allowed to conduct an interview with Filipino and foreign journalists, as well as to freely communicate with the mass media without interference from his military custodians.

For its part, the Marcos party fielded Imelda Marcos to head its ticket in the Manila area. Attention was focused here on the country's foremost urban center, where Marcos was torn between his intense hatred for all opposition and the need to please U.S. imperialism by pretending to tolerate dissent and move toward "normalization".

Still, he couldn't quite check his natural inclination to make trouble all around, every chance he got.

Opposition candidates were ignored by the newspapers, radio and television stations controlled by the Marcos clique. On the other hand, the mass media were monopolized by Marcos candidates, and most of all by the ruling couple.

The dictator's puppets paid no attention to anything else but the "campaign", in spite of the strict legal prohibition against government officials and employes engaging in partisan political activities. Those officials whom he ordered to run continued to stay in office, using their position to ensure victory for the dictatorship at the "polls".

Not satisfied with the advantage he will get from the use of block voting on "election" day, Marcos moved to be even surer of getting most of the block votes. He made the Nacionalista Party adopt the same ticket as the Marcos party, so that a block vote for one would be the same as a block vote for the other.

Once more, he displayed his total lack of scruples when he exposed his own wife and daughter to public shame, then blamed the deed on his opponents. Trying to turn the people's hatred for him into hatred for his opponents is one of his old tricks, to which he resorts in emergencies.

Imelda Marcos, it might be said, contributed her two-cents' worth of intelligent analysis. In her most charming manner, the dictator's partner declared that the big fires that had been breaking out one after another in Metro Manila, where she is governor, were "the work of politicians or subversives".

It became clear that the dictator was avoiding, above all, free and open exchanges concerning the real meaning and the policies of the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime.

He and his candidates refused to face the opposition's challenge for both sides to engage in a discussion of important public issues.

Representatives from the Marcos party repeatedly failed to show up at debates arranged by different organisations. "Are they so sure of winning that they no longer need to have a forum with the people?" asked one club that was snubbed by the Marcos party. "If so, this only emphasises the farcical nature of the coming elections, and the futility of the whole thing."

Public meetings held by the opposition were plagued by paid agents of the regime who took pictures and tape-recorded the speeches, and threatened the audience.

Even then, people in Manila eagerly attended rallies held by the opposition, in their sympathy for candidates upholding the interests of the broad masses of the people against the oppressive U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

The people showed warm support particularly for those candidates who had been political prisoners. At one student gathering, for example, the audience spontaneously stood to pay tribute to Trinidad Herrera, urban poor leader who was tortured by her military captors.

In the provinces, the "campaign" was even more of an unequal contest.

Those who were running against the Marcos party got their arms twisted, as a result of which some backed out or transferred to the regime's ticket. Reliable sources said that this happened in northern Luzon, central Visayas and Mindanao.

Meetings held by the Marcos party, according to reports, "attracted more flies than people". In places where the opposition had sincere concern for the people, public support was strong and opposition rallies were well attended.

The regime's candidates obviously were not interested in explaining their side to the people. "After all," said one mayor in Pampanga, "there's no need to campaign. Victory is sure on April 7."

Meanwhile, in the wide expanse of the countrysides, cadres of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army were tirelessly setting up and strengthening the organs of genuine people's democratic political power.

Gun in hand, the Filipino people are building, today, the structures for their liberated and prosperous tomorrow.

* * *

CALL TO STRUGGLE VS. TERRORISM ISSUED BY TWO NEWSPAPERS

Two regional newspapers recently called on the people to step up armed revolution in answer to intensified terrorism by the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime.

"Armed struggle is the only solution" to fascist military abuses, said Asdang in Mindanao (November-December 1977) and Himagsik in Central Luzon (February 7, 1978).

The two mass newspapers stressed the importance of organizing the people to expose the crimes of the reactionary military, so that the broad masses may know and protest against these.

"It is curious to note that only a few isolated cases of military abuse ever get published," Himagsik said. "It happens only when 'big names' get hurt."

All the while, the paper continued, the broad masses of the people are those who are beaten up, jailed, raped, murdered and driven out of their homes and farms.

Himagsik mentioned various instances of mass torture and mass imprisonment of the people, which are common occurrences in the region as the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship heightens its armed counter-revolution.

Asdang, on the other hand, outlined the concrete steps that the people may take to fight fascist terrorism.

Specific incidents should be discussed with relatives and friends of the victims, and they should be given reading materials that will help them to understand what happened.

The relatives and friends may then be organized into small groups that can join up with other groups fighting against military terrorism. "The important thing is to build strong unity among them," Asdang added.

Records should be kept of the crimes committed by the fascist military, by gathering facts concerning the victims and the events.

The people can be mobilized to actively protest against abuses by the fascist military, and to insist that justice be done to the victims. Asdang pointed out that there are different forms of mass mobilization,

such as "radyo-baba", or conducting a whisper information campaign, issuing leaflets or manifestos, holding meetings and writing letters to be read over radio stations.

There are victories to be gained in these struggles, Asdang explained, but they would only be partial victories unless they are linked up with broader struggle against U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and all exploiters.

Only revolutionary people's war can fully stop military terrorism, the newspaper said.

Counter-revolutionary violence is widespread in Mindanao, and not only against the Moro masses. (See related item on p. 6.) Multiple killings are common, such as the massacre of 13 Mandaya tribesmen last October 23 in Cateel, Davao Oriental, by a patrol of the 59th PC Battalion; of 11 peasants of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, last June 11, who were killed by Task Force Kaunlaran on suspicion that they were supporters of the New People's Army; of 13 Moros who were killed in two massacres by the 3rd Infantry Battalion in Upi, Cotabato City, on May 9 and July 9; and of five peasants from Cogonal, La Suerte, Cotabato, last November 19.

From eastern Samar, Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (February 4, 1978) reported on abuses by reactionary troops particularly in the towns of Dolores, San-avid and Oras.

In one of the latest incidents, according to BMP, fascist troops raided the barrio of Buenavista, Dolores, last November 4. Except for six old men, all the men in the barrio were gathered together and beaten up. To avoid further cruelties from the fascist troops, the barrio people were forced to abandon their homes and their fields.

BMP said that the fascists took out their anger on the people following a successful dawn raid carried out in Buenavista by the New People's Army the day before. Red fighters attacked the schoolbuilding in which the reactionary troops were quartered. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the raid and many others were wounded, including Lt. Arias, detachment commander.

Besides this, U.S.-Marcos troops are guilty of many other crimes against the people of the three Samar towns mentioned above, according to BMP, which gave details of the various abuses.

Since the U.S.-Marcos military is made up of criminals, collaboration between the military and criminal elements comes as no surprise. Neither is it surprising when military men get paid as professional criminals.

The cozy relationship between the military and the underworld unexpectedly came to light recently as a result of a shooting incident between PC elements and Manila policemen on a crowded Tondo street. Two days had passed when the Manila police discovered that one of those injured in the shooting was one of the 10 most wanted criminals in the city. It turned out that he had been under the protection of a PC captain assigned to the second PC zone at Camp Vicente Lim in Laguna. Naturally enough, by that time it was too late to get their hands on him. The argument came to a close with the PC refusing to turn over the criminal.

In another incident, three PC intelligence agents under the first PC zone at Camp Olivas, Pampanga, were hired by a wealthy businessman from Pampanga to kill his friend. The victim was suspected of having betrayed his friendship with the businessman. The "mission" having been accomplished, the four conspirators failed to agree on the correct price. In the end, the businessman paid with his own life instead of paying the cash he tried to save.

Because the reactionary armed forces are an instrument of the state of the reactionary ruling classes, every shot they fire is in behalf of the armed counter-revolution being waged against the interests of the broad masses of the people.

The people support and cherish the New People's Army because it was born out of their need to defend themselves, and because it is their own instrument for the armed seizure of state power.

* * *

INCREASE IN MONEY SUPPLY WORSENS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Whenever Marcos talks of an increase in money supply, he calls it an "achievement". He wants to make people believe that it will encourage production, bringing prices down and creating more jobs.

The country's money supply increased more than double from P6.8 billion in 1972 to P14.9 billion in 1977. And yet, the amount of goods produced during this period grew very slowly.

In 1977, money supply increased by 24 percent as compared to 1976. But the amount of goods and services produced in the economy grew more slowly than in the previous year. Prices continued to rise and unemployment remained unsolved.

Evidently, the additional money that was injected into the economy did not go into additional production. Where then did the money go?

According to the Annual Report for 1977 of the Central Bank of the Philippines, 60 percent of the total money supply last year was generated by the government. But of this total amount, significant portions went into unproductive, if not completely counter-productive ventures.

Take the military budget, for instance. It was allocated P5 billion of the total P27.4 billion budget for last year. This figure does not include the more than P1 billion which the fascist dictator rechannelled into the intelligence fund from various items in the budget.

Furthermore, of the P8 billion that was alloted for infrastructures and utilities, big slices went into the construction of roads and bridges for military operations against the people and the people's army, and into various extravagant projects of the dictator's wife, Imelda Marcos. On top of these, huge amounts were taken as their cut by the Marcoses and their relatives and dummies.

Much of the money, therefore, went into counter-productive and anti-people projects, or flew straight into the pockets of the fascist dictator and his cronies.

But even if all the money were spent on production, still the result wouldn't be low prices, high wages or more jobs. The U.S. imperialistst who own and control the system of production in this country always seek to push prices up or bring wages down, or both, in order to extract the most profit for themselves.

What is even worse is that the U.S. imperialists take those profits out of the country, thus depriving our people of the capital that is so necessary in building up production.

The pumping out of capital from the Philippines to the imperialist countries, coupled with consistent losses by the Philippines in external trade with them, explains why the fascist dictatorship, in an effort to increase money supply supposedly for production, resorts to foreign loans.

In 1977, for example, money of external origin rose by P1.3 billion. Mainly, this came from compensatory borrowings made by the Central Bank (sums borrowed from foreign sources in order to fill in deficits in trade and other external transactions), and by other types of loans.

Similarly, the government increased its borrowings from local banks and other sources, the funds for which had also been provided by foreign loans. In this way, the internal public debt rose from P25 billion in 1976 to P32 billion in 1977. This could not be otherwise, as the government spent more than it earned last year.

As the government got more and more loans from U.S. and other imperialists, the country became more and more subject to imperialist dictation and exploitation.

This year, the Marcos regime will feed into the economy about 35 to 40 percent more money than it did last year. To make this possible, Central Bank circulars were issued forcing local banks to lower their interest on loans so as to get more businessmen to borrow.

Marcos will again say this is an "achievement" and will induce more production. But the people had better expect the opposite and prepare for more crises ahead.

* * *

'NOTHING WILL BREAK OUR UNITY,' SAYS MNLF

The Marcos fascist regime is inventing 'trouble' between top leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in its effort to weaken the Moro struggle in southern Philippines.

Hatimil Hassan, MNLF Central Committee member, denounced the reactionary military for fabricating a so-called split between MNLF officials.

According to Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas (January 28, 1978), Hassan branded as 'lies' the reports that Nur Misuari, MNLF chairman, has been removed from his post as a result of disagreements within the organization.

"It's not the first time that the military has tried to split the Moro revolutionary ranks," said Hassan, who is the MNLF representative in the Joint Ceasefire Commission. BMP added that Hassan has practically been held prisoner by the U.S.-Marcos regime since October 1977.

"They will continue to sow lies in order to weaken us, but they will not succeed because we are strong, and we grow stronger because our cause is just," Hassan explained.

He had just made the statement when the regime tried the same trick again. Rear Adm. Romulo Espaldon, chief of the Southern Command that takes charge of the anti-Moro campaign, again announced that charges had been made by other MNLF leaders against Misuari, but that the latter had taken steps to counter his "adversaries".

In trying to make the Moro people and their fighters believe that their leaders cannot agree among themselves, the fascist regime hopes to convince them to give up the fight.

While attempting to slander the MNLF leadership, the Marcos government at the same time continues military operations against the MNLF, the Bangsa Moro Army and the Moro people.

The dictatorship pays lip service to the "ceasefire" agreement made in 1976, Hassan pointed out, but it has not stopped military actions against the BMA fighters.

Last December 14, for example, the Marcos government bombed a social gathering in Buya-buya, Cotabato City. Six persons were killed, 35 were wounded, all the houses were burned and the crops destroyed.

Two airplanes and one helicopter dropped about 25 bombs in the middle of a wedding celebration.

More and more people have been forced to leave their homes as a result of government terrorism. In Cotabato City, one refugee camp for displaced barrio people shelters about 400 families. Frequently, this number increases to 700 families because of repeated military operations against the people.

Even then, refugees who evacuate to the camp are still subject to harassment by the fascist regime. Raids are frequently conducted on these camps and many men are taken away as suspected "rebels".

On February 24, on the other hand, the Marcos fascist regime announced it was lifting the curfew in 13 provinces of Mindanao, in a move to make the situation in the region look "normal".

Espaldon said the people's freedom to move about at any time was being restored because of "the improvement in the peace and order situation now that all known terrorist lairs have been dismantled".

The day following his announcement, Espaldon could hardly contain his shock on learning that armed men had kidnapped a senior official of the French government who was visiting Zamboanga City as a tourist.

Before this, several persons had also been abducted by armed men, among them Col. Simeon Perez, general manager of the Sulu Electric Cooperative and two nuns who were carried off in Lanao del Sur.

The kidnapped French visitor was able to send word at once saying he was in good condition. But by that time, it had become clear to the whole world that the Marcos martial law regime is not in control of Mindanao.

* * *

SOUTH SUPERHIGHWAY: PROGRESS FOR WHOM?

Lined up on both sides of the broad South Superhighway leading out of Manila are the industrial plants and factories to which officials of the U.S.-Marcos regime proudly point. These, they tell visitors, are the signs of progress and prosperity brought about by the "New Society". The question remains: progress and prosperity for whom?

Inside the walls of these factories and industrial plants, hundreds of thousands of workers labor in a race against the clock. Their sweat and their blood assure progress and prosperity for the big bourgeois and the imperialists who rule the country.

Located on the South Superhighway are 350 industrial plants and factories, according to a report published by Ichthys, publication of the Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines, last January. In the biggest ones are manufactured textiles, garments, rope, food products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, drugs, chemicals, iron and motor vehicles.

U.S. imperialists own 70 percent of the 120 biggest plants, big Kuomintang capitalists own another 20 percent, while Filipino capitalists own only 10 percent.

Twenty-eight of the factories along the superhighway, the report said, belong to corporations included in the government list of the top 109 companies in the Philippines.

A total of around 200,000 workers are employed in the area, 75 percent of them women. Three out of five are married, with an average of six persons in the family.

The great majority of those workers finished high school, while 15 percent finished college or vocational courses.

Ninety percent or 180,000 come from poor peasant or farmworkers families.

"Most of us here, like my sister and I, came to Manila to look for a better life than we had in the barrio," said Fe, who works in a factory that manufactures garments and gloves for export.

"Our father is a poor peasant. When the harvest has been brought in, we hardly have enough rice left for our daily meals. Most of the crop goes to the landlords and to pay off our debts.

"But our life hasn't changed much since we came to Manila. We're still poor and exploited. Wages are low, and there are so many deductions from our pay."

The average unskilled worker like Fe receives a daily wage ranging from ₱10 to ₱19. No matter how hard they try to stretch their budget, they never have enough for their needs.

Even the government's National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) came to the conclusion in 1974 that a worker must earn at least ₱45 a day to be able to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter for his family, plus expenses for transportation, light and water.

Even at ₱45 a day, the worker would not be able to send a child to college, nor would he have money for emergencies like illness and hospitalization.

The NEDA made this estimate in 1974. Since then, prices have steadily gone up.

In the words of one laborer who works in the factory turning out Levi's, a well-known brand of blue jeans: "It would take me eight days of work to be able to buy a pair of pants that we ourselves made." The cheapest pair of Levi's costs ₱80 today.

Apart from their low wages, workers in the South Superhighway area complain against poor working conditions--long hours of work, production quotas that are continually being raised without additional pay; unreasonable regulations and repressive supervisors.

What's more, conditions inside the factory are hard to endure. Ventilation is poor, there is too much heat and noise, toilets and cafeterias are dirty, there are no safety measures and equipment, and health hazards are posed by the smell of chemicals and varnish or by cotton fibers that stick to the skin or enter the workers' lungs.

But the capitalists refuse to spend for better working conditions, as their intention is to squeeze as much profit as possible from the workers. In 1976, for example, Golmart Industries earned ₱48 million, while Levi Strauss earned ₱62 million.

Under martial law, the workers are exploited even more. They have no job security. The various decrees and general orders issued by the dictator Marcos clearly favor the exploiters and further enslave the workers.

The most oppressive measures have been Presidential Decree No. 823 and General Order No. 5, which outlawed the workers' weapon, their right to strike. A day's strike means a day's loss of production, or thousands of pesos in profits for the capitalists.

Under the provisions of P.D. No. 148, maternity benefits for women workers have decreased. They are now entitled to less maternity leave than before.

The capitalists also threaten the workers with dismissals, forced resignations, forced retirements, and their replacement with casuals who are paid lower rates. They call in the reactionary armed forces to put down workers strikes and other mass actions.

In spite of the repression, the workers continue to struggle for their economic and political rights. In the last seven months of 1977, 20,000 workers went on strike in various factories in the South Superhighway area.

Victories were scored in these struggles. But, as was expected, the enemy struck back. In three factories alone, 1,500 workers were suspended and their leaders were arrested. As of January 1978, six union leaders from the South Superhighway area were still detained at the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center.

Through all this, the workers have kept their courage and firmness. They refuse to be slaves forever. Together with the entire proletariat all over the country, the workers along the South Superhighway are uniting, organizing and preparing bigger and more advanced struggles ahead. The country's workers are leading the peasantry, supported by the other democratic and patriotic forces, in breaking the chains of oppression and overthrowing the exploiting classes that rule the land.

CULTURAL MAGAZINES PUBLISH LITERARY AND ART WORKS

Eager readers in both city and countryside welcomed the publication early this year of the cultural publications Ulos (Spearhead) and Kamao (Clenched Fist).

The two magazines aim to draw materials from the rich variety of experiences in the mass struggle, and to heighten the impact of these experiences by transforming them into stories, poems, plays, drawings, posters and other art works.

"These artistic creations should serve to advance the people's revolution," Ulos said, adding: "While developing a national, scientific and mass culture, at the same time we must combat the dictatorship's fascist culture, which serves and was produced by U.S. imperialism and feudalism."

Ulos made it clear that in the present stage of the people's struggle, revolutionary culture is 'that which serves to expand armed struggle and the national united front, towards the establishment of a free and democratic society'.

The first issue of the new series of Ulos examines the close links between the peasant masses and the people's army.

Three poems are translations from Pampango and express in traditional poetic form the feelings of peasants who have become Red fighters in the New People's Army. A poem written by Comrade Wilfredo Gacosta, and another in his memory, are in the modern idiom. The poet was killed in 1977 in the Bicol region.

Also included in the current issue are several stories describing some aspects of life in a guerrilla zone of the New People's Army, a children's story that was written for very young revolutionaries, and a story that shares some of the Vietnamese people's revolutionary experiences.

Kamao, on the other hand, reaches out to readers who are mainly workers and urban poor. The magazine's task, according to its editors, is "to help the workers realise their leading role in the urban struggle as well as the need to join the armed struggle in the countryside".

With this in mind, Kamao published poems and stories that were produced by cultural workers out of their integration with the urban masses. One poem was written by Comrade Emmanuel Lacaba, revolutionary poet, who died in Mindanao in 1976.

In its lead article, Kamao vividly describes the First Quarter Storm of the revolutionary mass struggle in Manila in 1970. "The storm that heralded the beginning of this decade," the magazine said, "should inspire all revolutionary comrades to heighten their revolutionary consciousness and to propel forward the Filipino people's struggle for national liberation and democracy."

The Filipino people possess a rich poetic and artistic tradition, that is growing even richer, now that the people are arising and are able to give new content to the old forms of artistic expression. At the same time, experiments continue to be carried out, particularly by the revolutionary intellectuals, on non-traditional forms that will give shape to the new experiences and that will be accepted by the masses for whom these new forms are being created.

Cultural workers have a tremendous role to perform in the revolution. By going deep among the masses, they can transform themselves into instruments for the refinement and the transmittal of art works produced in the storm and stress of revolutionary struggle.

* * *

PRICE OF A HUMAN LIFE:
P2,000 (MAYBE LESS)

The life of a human being is worth no more than P2,000, in the view of the Marcos fascist regime.

This is written down in Department Circular No. 22 of the regime's Department of National Defense issued by Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile on April 13, 1973.

Enrile's circular authorizes the Armed Forces of the Philippines to make a 'relief payment...not exceeding P2,000' for the death of a civilian resulting from a crossfire between the AFP and enemies of the state.

The amount is also authorized for a civilian killed by the AFP 'due to mistaken identity', or killed by an AFP soldier who runs berserk.

If the civilian victim is not killed but is incapacitated, the payment is not to exceed ₱1,500.

With the cost of living so high under martial law, the amounts authorized are not even enough for the victim's hospitalization or burial. Even then, there is no guarantee that the victim or his family can get payment.

This is so because civilians killed indiscriminately in AFP operations are invariably reported to headquarters as guerrillas of the New People's Army or of the Bangsa Moro Army, or as plain "bandits" or "terrorists".

To further discourage payments, the Barile circular imposes so many conditions upon the families of victims.

They are required to produce the victim's death certificate, his birth certificate, his marriage certificate, if single the marriage certificate of his parents, the birth certificates of his children, etc.

After the claimants have spent so much time and money securing these documents, they still have to wait for the official report of the AFP unit responsible for the death, and an investigation by the judge advocate (military lawyer) of the major service concerned.

What is worse, with military officers helping themselves to the funds, the victim's families usually end up getting just half of the money involved, or even less.

With this attitude of the DND, it is no wonder that mercenaries of the AFP think nothing of piling up one blood debt upon another by committing massacres and other atrocities.

The Barile circular confirms the oft-repeated statement that under Marcos martial law, the only thing that is cheap is human life.